

REMARKS

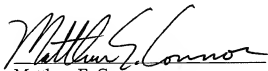
Claims 2, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response thereto, Applicants have amended the claims in order to make them comply with 35 USC §112.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dimitriu, U.S. 5,957,931. In addition, claims 11, 13-15 and 17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Accordingly, the allowable subject matter of claim 11 has been added to claim 1, and claims 13 and 17 have been rewritten into independent form to include the subject matter of claim 1. New dependent claims 19-26 have been added to further clarify and define the invention.

Claims 1-10 and 12-26 are now deemed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew E. Connors", is written over a horizontal line.

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